

# DORA DEL HOYO

---

## SERVANT OF GOD

Newsletter of the Office for the  
Causes of Saints,  
Prelature of Opus Dei in Britain  
2025 | No. 6

### UNEXPECTED ADVENTURES

Boca de Huérgano is in a valley in the Picos de Europa mountain range in Northern Spain. Dora was born there, went to school in snowy winters, went hungry, and suffered the death of a brother. She worked for a doctor and then for an industrialist in Astorga (a town about 100 miles away), and lived through a civil war. From a young age Dora had an adventurous spirit, which did not shrink in the face of obstacles. After the war she moved to Madrid to look for work in domestic service. Through the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, which acted as a placement agency, she worked in Madrid, Santander and Bilbao. Dora was good at her job and earned a good salary. She also wanted to get to know other cultures: she applied to work in Berlin, but her father dissuaded her because of the risks of the Second World War.



*Photo: Boca de Huérgano Bridge (Lobo Quirce – Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0)*

Her life took an unexpected turn in 1944. St Josemaría, founder of Opus Dei, turned to a nun of the Congregation to ask for a competent person to help take care of the domestic care of the Moncloa University Hall of Residence. Dora was recommended for her exceptional qualities and accepted the job for a short time. At the age of 30, she found herself with a residence for a hundred people, a domestic staff run by three inexperienced women and unreliable personnel with little training. She herself would say, years later, that she did not leave the home because she understood that St Josemaría was a holy priest and she held him in high regard.

While in Boca de Huérgano during the summer, Dora received a letter from Nisa González Guzmán, who now asked her to help in setting up the Abando Hall of Residence in Bilbao. Dora took on this new challenge. For some months she had felt that God was calling her to a greater adventure: to use her big heart to the full, seeking holiness in the work she loved and which she always did well, and thus contributing to creating a family atmosphere that transcended mere efficient management. On 14 March 1946, Dora took a step that would definitively change her life: she asked to be admitted to Opus Dei.

In December of the same year, she moved to Rome with four other women, in response to St Josemaría's request to collaborate in the first steps of the Work there. With the same adventurous and generous spirit, she faced the challenges and material hardships of the post-war years. She remained in the Eternal City until her death in 2004. She supported the work of Opus Dei during brief stays in England, France and various cities in Italy. The thirst for experience that she had in her youth was fulfilled in an unexpected way, through God's call to become a saint in her work and to contribute to the universal and family trait of Opus Dei.

## PRAYER

**O Lord, you called your servant Dora to work at the tasks that the Blessed Virgin Mary carried out in her home at Nazareth. Help me find you in the ordinary events of daily life, and to fill my surroundings with the same family warmth that Dora brought to hers with her cheerful and selfless work, following the teachings of Saint Josemaría. Glorify your servant Dora, and grant me the favour that I ask (*here make your petition*). Amen. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...**

*In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.*

## NEWS OF THE CAUSE

Two processes have been concluded, one in Madrid and the other in Santiago de Chile. The Roman phase of the Cause is currently under way.

## FAVOURS

Years ago, my family witnessed a miracle of Dora del Hoyo with my grandson. We were in Villa de Leyva (Colombia), the three year old was playing on a bunk bed. He was playing with his cousins who were below. They probably opened their arms or he decided to jump off. The girls did not hold him and so he fell head first and broke a major vertebra in his neck. The bunk bed was six feet high. I resolved to pray in a special way to Dora del Hoyo and I had the prayer card. But the boy, who was going to be paraplegic or who was not going to wake up, is doing very well. They operated on him, they took good care of him; he had an orthopaedic neck collar. It was a great favour from Dora.

### C. C. S. – Colombia

My daughter Maria and her husband have lived in Dublin for many years. They are expecting their first child and for health reasons they did not want their child to be born there. They decided to come to Spain even if he had to give up his job. I have done Dora's novena and just at the end he has found a good job and she has had her contract extended. Thank you, Dora.

### M. J. A. L. - Spain

Those who have obtained favours through the intercession of the Servant of God Dora del Hoyo are asked to let us know by writing to us at the address below. More information is available at [www.doradelhoyo.org](http://www.doradelhoyo.org)



*Photo: Dora, in St Peter's Square (Vatican City), in 1968*

This Newsletter is issued free of charge. Those who wish to make a contribution to help its publication may send donations by cheque or postal order to the address below or by direct transfer.

Prelature of Opus Dei, Office for the Causes of Saints, 4 Orme Court, London W2 4RL

e-mail: [ocs.uk@opusdei.org](mailto:ocs.uk@opusdei.org)

Direct transfer for donations to "Opus Dei Charitable Trust"

Account Number: 81044834

Sort-Code: 40-05-33 Reference: DORA